Reviewer's report

Title: An Analysis of Farmers' Perception of the New Rural Cooperative Medical System in Liaoning Province, China

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Reviewer: Adrian Sleigh

Reviewer's report:

1) Abstract
sections saying government work is effective are not justified by the findings of perceived poor quality and high co-payments.

Introduction

2) Unusual terminology. Many papers refer to CMS (1958-1980s), RCMS (township-pooled low-premium pilots that were tried in the 1990s and failed due to no govt funds) and NCMS (since 2002 State Council and CPC Central C'tee regulation offering govt financial support). This section could be made more accurate for its history. The 1990s was a 'pilot period' to resurrect the CMS as RCMS and the 2002- period is the NCMS. I think the title should also change to NCMS (not NRCMS).

3) Ordinal regression model is unusual and hard to follow. Is Table 3 necessary? I think the co-efficients can be inserted into the text and explained - how much effect is due to each factor, and in what direction is the effect?

4) Figure 1 seems to duplicate Table 1 and if so can be deleted.

5) Table 2 numbers could be rounded off to one decimal point.

6) Figure 3 is hard to understand and is not referred to in the results - should be deleted.

Discussion

7) second para - I disagree - surely women need the NCMS as much as men if not more

8) third para - I think the elderly expect less, coming from a much poorer generation

Conclusions

9) second para - where is the evidence that 'governments have adopted effective measures'? Reword this - governments are attempting to improve.....

10) one or more of the following references may be useful (at authors discretion)


I Sun X, Sleigh A, Han D and Zhang A. 2005 Managed Care in the United States and its Implications for New Rural Cooperative Medical Care in China, Health Economics Research, 209: 33-35

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have co-authored publications on this topic and expressed opinions in those articles